

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 /033 W

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O R 261537Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8610

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS, INFO: CU/EE, EUR/SOV; GENEVA FOR CSCE/
CORIDEN; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: SAINT PAUL CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

REF: A) STATE 64963; B) MOSCOW 3797;
C) MOSCOW 19159 DTD DECEMBER 31, 1974;
D) STATE 283449 DTD. DECEMBER 30, 1974

1. EMBASSY PLANS POUCH COPY OF DRAFT ST. PAUL CONTRACT
TO CU/ARTS ATTENTION IRENE CARSTONES BY END OF THIS
WEEK FOR REVIEW.

2. SINCE GOSKONTSERT IS GIVING US PROBLEMS ON HONORARIUM,
ITINERARY, NUMBER OF CONCERTS AND ADVANCE VISIT, PRESS
AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR BROUGHT UP MATTER MARCH TWENTY-FIVE
WITH MINCULT (BUTROVA). RESULT OF MEETING INCONCLUSIVE
BUT EMBOFF SEEKING FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH GOSKONTSERT
(KOKONIN WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FORM POLAND) MARCH TWENTY-
SEVEN OR TWENTY-EIGHT.

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3. FOLLOWING DETAILS ON SALIENT PROBLEMS ARE FOR DEPART-

MENT'S BACKGROUND:

A. HONORARIUM: EMBASSY HAS SUBMITTED TO GOSKONTSERT MAXIMUM REVISED PER CONCERT FIGURE OF DOLLARS (1000 DOLS/ 700RS). PER REFTEL (B), ONE DOLLAR DOES NOT RPT NOT EQUAL ONE SOVIET RUBLE, AS MUCH AS EMBASSY WOULD LIKE IT IF THAT WERE SO. ONE DOLLAR EQUALS, AS OF MARCH TWENTY-SIX, .070 RUBLES. CONVERSELY, ONE RUBLE EQUALS ABOUT \$1.43. THEREFORE MAXIMUM FEE OF DOLS 2000 (1000 DOLS/1000 RS) CITED IN DEPARTMENT REFTEL IS INCORRECT. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), GOSKONTSERT COUNTERED WITH PER PERFORMANCE FEE OF DOLS 1114.29 (400 DOLS/ 500 RS). EMB HAS TOLD GOSKONTSERT THIS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO DEPARTMENT BASED ON RESPONSE REFTEL (A). WE ARE HOPING FOR COUNTEROFFER FROM GOSKONTSERT BY END THIS WEEK. DEPARTMENT'S MINIMUM PER CONCERT FEE OF DOLS 1457.14 (600 DOLS/ 600 RS) BEING HELD IN RESERVE UNTIL WE RECEIVE GOSKONTSERT'S COUNTER-OFFER.

B. ITINERARY/NUMBER CONCERTS: GOSKONTSERT HAS PREPARED WHOLLY UNSATISFACTORY ITINERARY WHICH INCLUDES MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, TALLIN, RIGA, VILNIUS, MINSK, KIEV WHICH EMBASSY HAS ASKED BE REVISED ALONG LINES PREVIOUS REFTELS. FYI: GORKY OR ANY OTHER CLOSED CITY IS UNLIKELY ACCORDING TO GOSKONTSERT. GOSKONTSERT SAYS THAT IF ITINERARY INCLUDES SEVEN TO EIGHT CITIES, MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONCERTS THEY CAN ARRANGE IS FIFTEEN. THEY SAY THE MORE CITIES, THE FEWER CONCERTS BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES MAXIMUM OF CONCERTS CAN BE RAISED, IF MATINEES ADDED. WHAT IS MINIMUM NUMBER OF CONCERTS DEPARTMENT WILL ACCEPT? ADVISE ASAP.

C. ADVANCE VISIT: GOSKONTSERT DIRECTOR ALESHCHENKO HAS SUDDENLY REVERSED HIS POSITION ON ADVANCE VISITS SAYING THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY ONLY RPT ONLY IN CASE OF BALLET OR THEATER GROUP. WHEN P&C COUNSELOR MET WITH BUTROVA MARCH TWENTY-FIVE, HE BROUGHT UP MATTER WITH HER. BUTROVA, APPARENTLY INFORMED BY GOSKONTSERT IN ADVANCE, ALSO TOOK NEGATIVE STAND ON ISSUE OF ADVANCE-TEAM VISIT TO USSR BY TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. REASON GIVEN WAS THAT SOVIET ORCHESTRAS PLAY IN SAME HALLS WITH SAME CONCERNS FOR GOOD ACOUSTICS, SO WHAT SPECIAL PROBLEMS COULD AMERICAN ORCHESTRAL GROUP HAVE? MIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULT ALSO TRIED MAKE POINT THAT ADVANCE-TEAM FOR ORCHESTRAL GROUP UNUSUAL IN PERFORMING ARTS EXCHANGES. WHEN REMINDED OF ADVANCE VISIT MADE BY MR. VAN NATTA FROM ROGER WAGNER CHORALE, BUTROVA ANSWERED QUOTE WELL WE WILL SEE WHAT THE SITUATION WILL BE UNQUOTE. MEANWHILE IN MEETING AT GOSKONTSERT, EMBASSY STRESSED ALESHCHENKO'S REVERSAL ON ADVANCE VISIT UNETHICAL SINCE HE HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED IT AND SINCE ORCHESTRA HAD HAD TO MAKE SOME

ADJUSTMENT WITH CONCERT SEASON IN ORDER SCHEDULE VISIT.
WHILE EMBASSY MAINTAINS ADVANCE VISIT ALWAYS IMPORTANT AND IS
SO MAINTAINING WITH MINCULT/GOSK. HOWEVER PLEASE ADVISE
ORCHESTRA/DEPT
POSITIONS FOR OUR NEGOTIATIONS. CAN ORCHESTRA DO WITHOUT IF
NECESSARY? ADVISE ASAP.

4. PER REFTEL (A), PARA 3: EMBASSY DRAFT CONTRACT CONTAINS
LANGUAGE SAYING PROPERTIES MUST RETURN WITH ORCHESTRA ON
SAME PLANE, BUT WE SEE CONFLICT IN TOUR DATES. PER
STATE REFTEL (D) ND CONFIRMED IN EMB REFTEL (C), ETD
DECEMBER TWENTY-ONE. REFTEL (A) LISTS ETD AS DEC. TWENTY-FOUR.
REQUEST CLARIFICATION.

5. EMB DRAFT CONTRACT STATES ETA IN USSR WILL BE NOVEMBER
TWENTY-TWO, 1975, AND PREMIERE WILL BE NOVEMBER TWENTY-
THREE. CONFIRM.
STOESSEL

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